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Title: Need to introduce old age pension scheme for the farmers.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (KENDRAPARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I would like to raise the following matter for the consideration of the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Agriculture is the main occupation of our country, and it immensely contributes to the country's growth. Farmers are the backbone of our nation, but they live in utter poverty. Every fourth person of our country is living below the poverty line. It means that 26 crore people of our country are very poor, and majority of them are engaged in farming. But their suffering increases as they are not in a position to work when they attain old age. The majority of the small and marginal farmers do not own much land, and their land holding is also very limited.

It is our duty -- when the farmers are contributing so much to our economy -- to take care of them in their old age. Therefore, I request the Government that old-age pension scheme should be introduced for the farmers at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment you. It was a good point made by you.